

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 INT-05

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 L-03 /079 W

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R 251644Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1320

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, NL, IV, CF, GW

SUBJECT: GERMAN AND DUTCH OBJECTIONS TO STABEX FUND

PAYMENTS TO CONGO/BRAZZAVILLE AND IVORY COAST

REF: EC BRUSSELS 6693

1. ON AUGUST 2L, A "DIE WEIT" ARTICIE REPORTED, AND ECONMIN SOURCE CONFIRMED, THAT THE FRG AND THE NETHERLANDS RECENTLY OBJECTED TO CERTAIN STABEX PAYMENTS UNDER THE LOME CONVENTION TO CONGO/BRAZZAVILLE AND THE IVORY COAST. EXPORT STABILIZATION PAYMENTS WERE SCHEDULED TO BE MADE BY THE COMMISSION AS THE RESULT OF A DROP IN 1975 WOOD EXPORTS FROM THESE TWO COUNTRIES (REFTEL). THE GERMANS AND DUTCH BELIEVE THAT THE DROP IN WOOD EXPORTS WAS CAUSED, HOWEVER, BY STATE INTERFERENCE IN THE WOOD EXPORT SECTORS OF THE

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TWO COUNTRIES.

2. THE "DIE WELT" ARTICLE POINTS OUT THAT CONGO/  
BRAZZAVILLE, AS OF JANUARY 1, 1975 PROHIBITED THE  
PRIVATE EXPORT OF WOOD AND ESTABLISHED THE "OFFICE DU  
BOIS DU CONGO" TO HANDLE ALL WOOD EXPORTS. THIS  
AUTHORITY, HOWEVER, WAS UNABLE TO CONTINUE THE  
PRACTICE OF PREPAYMENTS TO PRODUCERS FOR WOOD  
EXPORTS AND THUS CAUSED A DROP IN WOOD PRODUCTION.  
CONGO/BRAZZAVILLE CONSEQUENTLY WAS UNABLE TO FILL  
SEVERAL CONTRACTS WITH GERMAN IMPORTERS, AND GERMAN  
WOOD IMPORTS FELL IN 1975 FROM DM 80 MILLION TO DM 50  
MILLION. GERMAN IMPORTERS WOULD HAVE PURCHASED MORE  
WOOD IF MORE HAD BEEN AVAILABLE.

3. WOOD EXPORTS FROM THE  
IVORY COAST WERE REDUCED BY AN INCREASE IN THE  
PERCENTAGE OF RAW WOOD THAT THE GOVERNMENT REQUIRES  
TO BE DELIVERED TO ITS PROCESSING FACTORIES. AS A  
RESULT THE AMOUNT OF RAW WOOD REMAINING FOR EXPORT IN  
1975 DECREASED.

4. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THE COMMISSION DID NOT  
AGREE WITH GERMAN AND DUTCH OBJECTIONS. THE OTHER EC  
MEMBER STATES EITHER SUPPORTED THE COMMISSION OR WERE  
NOT AS DISTURBED BY THE PAYMENTS AS THE GERMANS AND  
DUTCH. AS A RESULT, THE EXPORT STABILIZATION PAYMENTS  
WILL NOW BE EFFECTED DESPITE THE OBJECTIONS OF THE  
GERMANS AND DUTCH. AN ECONMIN SOURCE CONFIRMED THE  
ABOVE BUT DID NOT KNOW IF THE TRANSFERS HAD YET BEEN  
MADE.

5. OUR ECONMIN SOURCE ALSO CONFIRMED THE FRG VIEW  
REPORTED IN "DIE WELT" THAT THE LOME CONVENTION IS NOT  
PRECISE ENOUGH TO INSURE PROMPT REPAYMENT OF STABEX  
LOANS. IT IS THE FRG POSITION THAT FIRMLY ESTABLISHED  
REPAYMENT TERMS WOULD BENEFIT THE POORER ACP COUNTRIES  
BY INSURING THE REPLENISHMENT OF FUNDS WHICH HAVE  
ALREADY PROVEN TO BE TOO SMALL TO COMPENSATE ALL  
EXPORT DROPS FOR 1975.

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## Message Attributes

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